

MONTEREY COUNTY

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

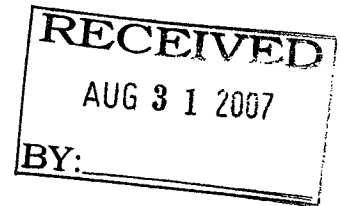
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August 28, 2007

The Honorable Quentin L. Kopp, Chair
California High-Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUPPORT: High-Speed Rail Southern Pacheco Pass Alignment

Dear Judge Kopp:

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors supports the southern Pacheco Pass alignment for the High-Speed Rail project. The southern alignment across the Pacheco Pass would have the train stopping at Gilroy and San Jose and thus would bring more riders though Gilroy and would likely increase ridership on the Caltrain corridor to Gilroy.

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County is planning two rail projects in Monterey County: extension of Caltrain commuter rail service to Monterey County, and passenger service to and from the Monterey Peninsula. These projects complement each other and will result in removing auto trips from Highways 1, 101 and 156. A third planned rail project is Amtrak's Coast Daylight service that would connect downtown Los Angeles with downtown San Francisco.

All three Monterey County rail projects will complement and connect with the High-Speed Rail system at Gilroy and San Jose if the southern Pacheco Pass alignment is chosen as the preferred alignment, thereby further increasing ridership on this segment. The Pacheco Pass alignment would be beneficial for Monterey County due to the increased ridership on train services through Monterey County and the regional economy would benefit from increased investment in infrastructure in the region and around train stations.

Monterey County's population was 401,000 in 2000 and is projected to reach 603,000 by 2030. Our growing population needs an alternative means of getting to jobs, health care, and shopping around the region and across the state. Increased access to the rail network and connectivity to the high-speed rail system in Gilroy will help the region be more sustainable economically, environmentally and socially.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this exciting project.

Sincerely,

Dave Potter

Chair, Board of Supervisors